



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
October 4, 2011

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Barron], Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, County Administrator Scott Moulder and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth G. Hulse present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council/]. In addition it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Extended Public Comment Session: None scheduled for this meeting.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]: None at this meeting.

Public Comment Session [related to non-agenda items]:

Mr. Jack Collins addressed Council voicing concerns regarding reassessment.

Mr. Mike Cammick addressed Council voicing concerns regarding reassessment and the process with Tyler Technologies.

Mr. Ben Turetzky addressed Council utilizing a written statement [copy filed with these minutes] regarding overlay development standards.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding reassessment and economic development.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding restrictions at Stumphouse Wildlife Management Area and Ordinance 2011-16.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Mr. McCall stated that the reassessment process has drawn a lot of public criticism. He stated that the Administrator is doing a good job. He requested that the Administrator identify if hours for Tyler Technologies could be expanded to include evenings and weekends to accommodate shift workers. Mr. Corbeil concurred with this request.

Mr. Thrift asked Mr. Moulder to address the process again for the public.

Mr. Moulder reiterated that process; citizens should first contact Tyler Technologies to identify if an adjustment can be made, then contact the Assessor's office if unsatisfied, and lastly filing a formal appeal with the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Mr. Dexter noted that the Carolina Heritage Fair is going on at the Golden Corner Commerce Park and encouraged all to attend and celebrate Oconee County's heritage.

Meeting Recess:

Mr. Thrift announced a recess at 6:33 p.m.

Meeting Reconvene:

Mr. Thrift reconvened the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. McCall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Minutes:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2011 regular meeting as presented.

Presentation by Outside Organizations

Ten at the Top / Mr. Dean Hybl

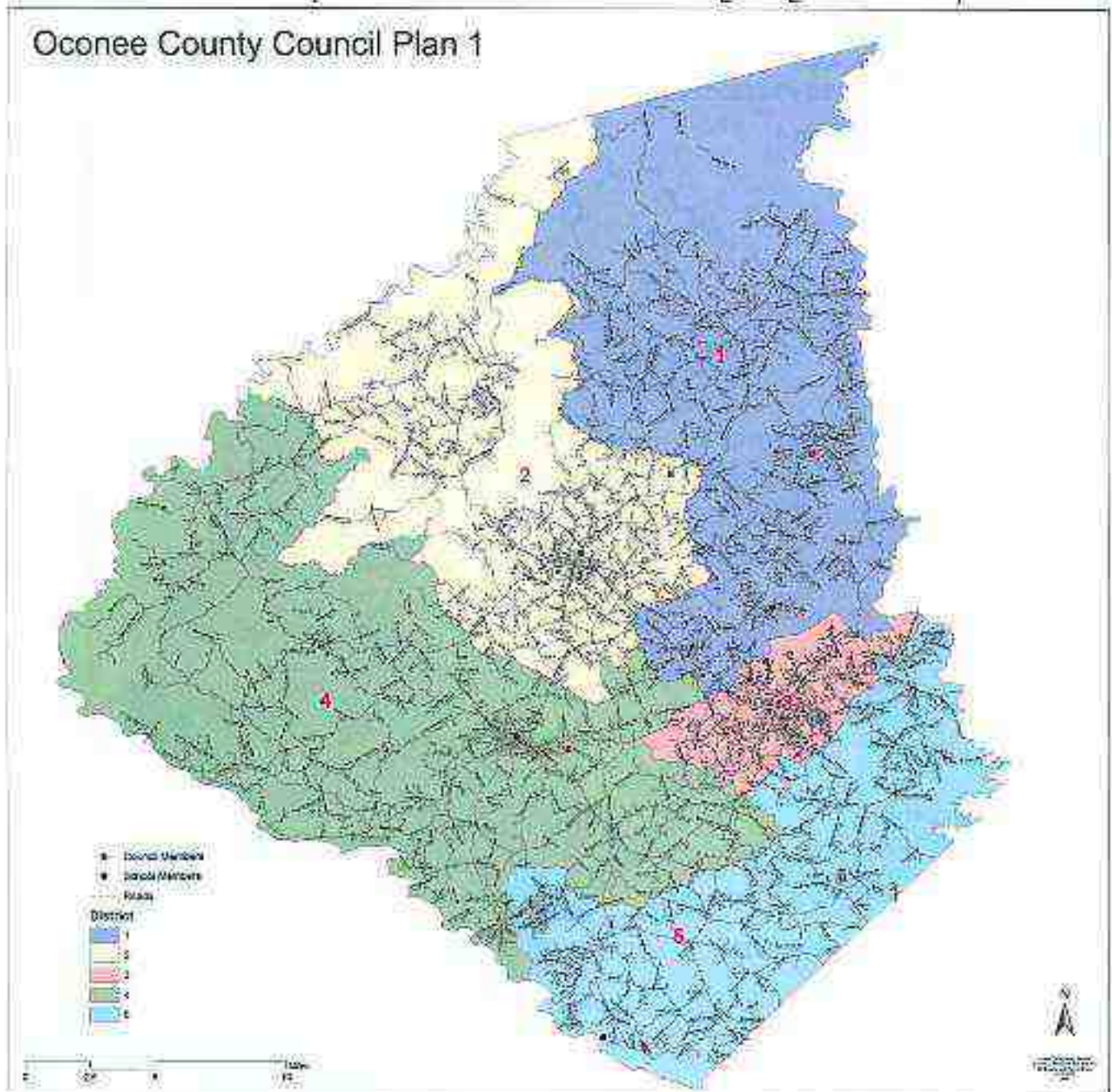
Mr. Hybl, Ten at the Top Executive Director, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] and several handouts [copies filed with these minutes] highlighting the group's accomplishments and goals for the coming year. Council thanked Mr. Hybl for his presentation.

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Public Hearing regarding the Oconee County Council Redistricting Plan 1 Map

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment regarding the Plan 1 Map.

Oconee County Council Plan 1

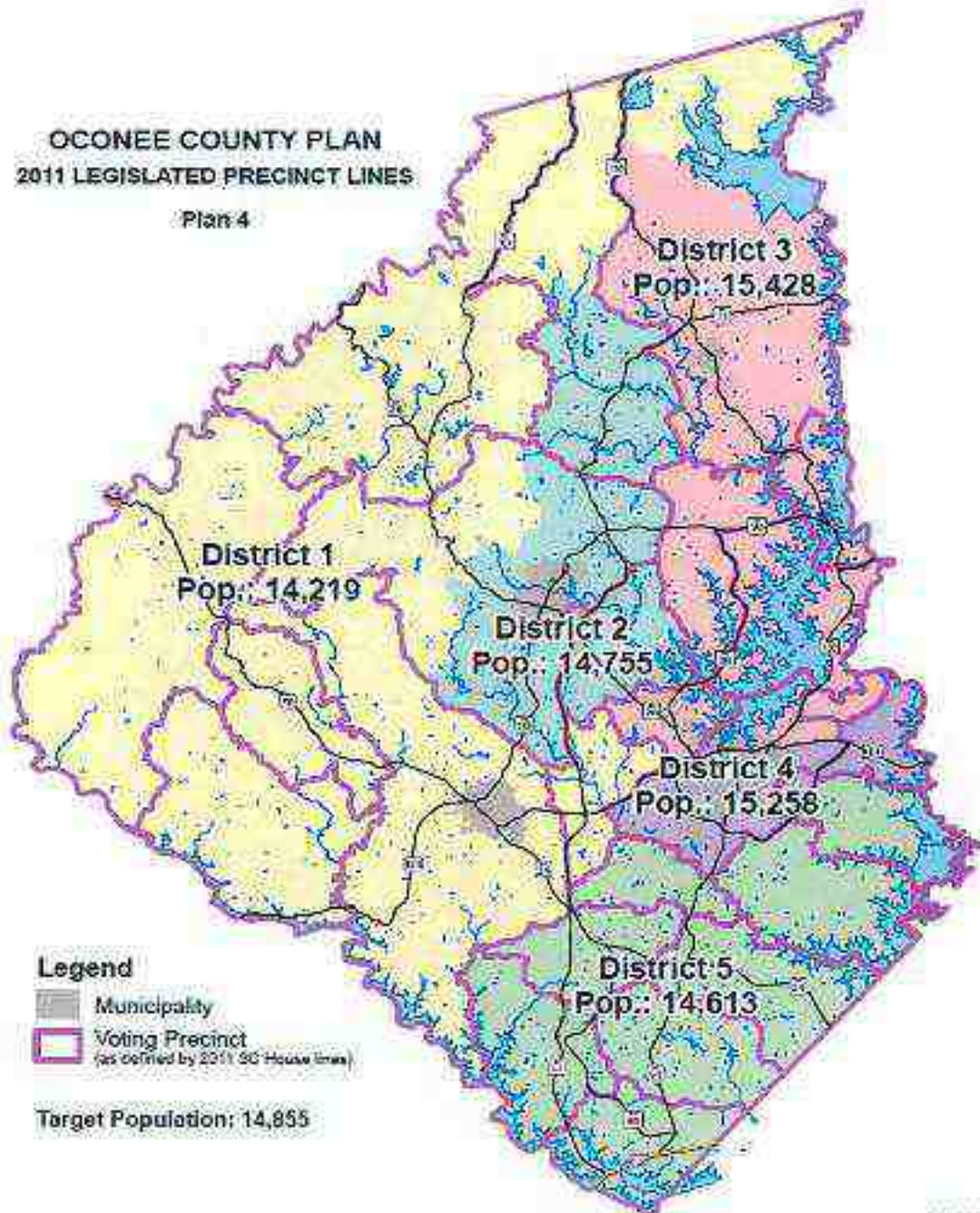


Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] proposing to Council Plan 4 Map for consideration. Highlights from her presentation are as follows:

- Communities of Common Interest
- Plan 4 Map
- SC Legislature Changes
- Council District Renumbering
- Formal Requests #1 and #3

**OCONEE COUNTY PLAN
2011 LEGISLATED PRECINCT LINES**

Plan 4



04/06/2011

Ms. Cornelius requested that the Plan 3 Map be removed from consideration by Council at this time.

Mr. Bud Larsch addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map and presented Council with approximately 150 signed petitions requesting creation of a Mountain district [copies filed with these minutes].

Mr. Jack Collins addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Mike Hammer addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. J. Pierre Pottier addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Mickey Haney addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map. In addition, he requested that the line be moved in the Plan 4 Map, District 1, to include the White Water community.

Mr. John Adams addressed Council utilizing a written statement [copy filed with these minutes] voicing support for a Mountain voting district.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any additional comments.

Dr. Ray Hopkins addressed Council voicing support for the Plan 4 Map and presented Council with several signed petitions requesting creation of a Mountain district [copies filed with these minutes].

Mr. John Seyller addressed Council in support for the Plan 4 Map.

Ms. Mary Collins addressed Council in support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Robert Lowery addressed Council in support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council in support for the Plan 4 Map. In addition, he requested that the line be moved in the Plan 4 Map, District 1, to include the White Water community and asked that everything be removed below Highway 123.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments.

No written comments were submitted.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for a dialog between Council and Ms. Cornelius regarding the proposed Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Dexter noted that the house lines and precinct line changes were presented to Council and the public for the first time at the August 18, 2011 Budget, Finance & Administration Committee meeting. He noted concern that the Plan 4 Map does not meet Ms. Cornelius stated goal regarding the rural mountain areas receiving representation. In addition, he stated that the Plan 4 Map still has several split precincts. Lastly, Mr. Dexter noted that with the proposed Plan 4 Map that many voters may be confused since the renumbering could cause some council seats to have only a 2 year term and others have a 6 year term. Discussion followed.

Ms. Cornelius stated that with any redistricting that some voters may be confused and that the Plan 4 Map allowed similar communities to be in the same district. She stated that if the rural districts are incorporated into other districts as proposed in Plan 1 Map that they will never be properly represented.

Ms. Cornelius voiced concerns regarding the legality of the Plan 1 Map drawn by the South Carolina Budget & Control Board [SCBCB] as it relates to the new house and precinct lines.

Ms. Cornelius outlined her two requests again as follows: [1] Council recommend Plan 4 Map for approval contingent upon the SCBCBs review for deviation, and [2] Council request the Delegation to introduce legislation, at the time of precinct additions, to modify the Oconee County election cycle numbers to match Plan 4 Map. Discussion followed.

Mr. Corbeil stated that the Plan 4 Map does not impact him as he would remain the same district with either plan. He stated he understand the concerns of some citizens regarding their perceived lack of representation. Mr. Corbeil briefly discussed the possibility of a referendum to take the districts from five to either seven or nine. He stated that potential maps would be made public so that citizens would have some idea how either a seven or nine district would impact them and their community. Discussion followed.

Lastly, Mr. Corbeil stated that Council stayed out of the process during development of the proposed Plan 1 Map. The Plan 1 Map was prepared by professionals at the SCBCB and was

presented to Council and the public for the first time at the August 18, 2011 Budget, Finance & Administration Committee meeting. He stated that the Plan 4 Map was an example of “gerrymandering”; drawing the districts to suit a contingent of citizens and does not solve the problem as stated to Council. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift asked the Clerk to Council to read into the record a memo from Ms. Brooks, Director Registration & Elections, regarding concerns with the proposed Plan 3 Map, overall voter confusion and the splitting of precincts. It was noted that several of the stated concerns addressed regarding the Plan 3 Map would also apply to the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. C. W. Richard addressed Council suggesting adoption of the Plan 4 Map but suggested leaving the district numbering as it is on the current map. He also voiced concerns regarding “ulterior motives” regarding the Plan 4 Map as it relates to the upcoming election cycle.

Mr. Mickey Haney addressed Council again voicing concerns about splitting the rural communities between several districts.

Mr. Ed Stetz addressed Council in support for the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Ryan Honea addressed Council voicing support for the District V representative who he stated is a good representative for the farming communities in the district.

Mr. McCall addressed those present voicing concerns that if the Plan 4 Map was adopted that it would be rejected by either the SCBCB or the Department of Justice. He also stated that if citizens were concerned and wished to add additional council districts that they could petition [requires 10% of the registered voters] to have a referendum placed on the next ballot.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any additional comments. None were received.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any written comments to be received and entered into the record. No additional written comments were received.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding the Plan 1 Map.

Public Hearing regarding the following Ordinances

Ordinance 2011-28 “AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment regarding Ordinance 2011-28.

Ms. Susie Cornelius stated that all of her comments regarding this matter were made previously in the public hearing regarding Plan 1 Map.

Mr. Jack Collins stated that all of his comments regarding this matter were made previously in the public hearing regarding Plan 1 Map.

Mr. Mike Cammick stated that all of his comments regarding this matter were made previously.

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any additional comments.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council in support of the Plan 1 Map and the open process and discussion regarding the two plan maps.

Mr. Richard Hughes addressed Council requesting deferral of a vote on Ordinance 2011-28 in order to have all council members present and have questions answered that arose at this meeting regarding the Plan 4 Map.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments.

No written comments were submitted.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2011-28.

Consideration of the Following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2011-28

Mr. Thrift noted that a good discussion occurred at this meeting regarding the two proposed redistricting maps. He stated that as Mr. Barron was not present at this meeting and that several questions arose regarding the proposed Plan 4 Map that he thought Council should table this matter until the October 18, 2011 council meeting.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to table **Ordinance 2011-28** “AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” until the October 18, 2011 regular council meeting.

Council directed the Administrator to obtain information regarding several issues that arose at this meeting to include:

- Are there any legal issues related to Plan 1 Map as prepared by the SCBCB as voiced by Ms. Cornelius?
- Are there any legal issues related to the Plan 4 Map as prepared by Ms. Cornelius?
- Request a representative from the SCBCB appear at the October 18th meeting to address issues/questions.
- Provide percentage deviation information for Plan 4 Map

Discussion & Possible Action Items

None scheduled for this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Oconee County Conservation Bank Board

Mr. Thrift noted that as Mr. Barron was not present at this meeting that he felt it would be appropriate to defer discussion and appointments to the next meeting.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to table appointments to the Oconee Conservation Bank Board until the October 18, 2011 council meeting.

Council requested that the Clerk to Council create a matrix chart for Council’s reference regarding each candidates qualifications as it relates to the specific criteria stated in the ordinance.

Commission & Board Reports to Council:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Council Committee Reports:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Administrator’s Report:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Old Business:

None scheduled for this meeting.

New Business:

Carolina Heritage Fair

Mr. Thrift reiterated Mr. Dexter's comments from earlier in the meeting regarding the Fair at the Golden Corner Commerce Park and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ten at the Top Funding Request

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, defeated 2 – 2 [Mr. Dexter and Mr. McCall opposed] to fund Ten at the Top in the amount of \$5,000 for three year beginning in Fiscal Year 2012, to be funded from the contingency account.

Mr. Dexter noted his support for this group and that he would support their request during the next years budget discussions.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council